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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement

The just relapsed settlement by Microsoft to furnish schools with software and hardware is the biggest bunch of baloney I have ever heard. Giving an abusive company a free inroads to, probably one of the last truly competitive areas for computing, just does not make any sense.

But Hausfeld said he felt it was the government's job to find a way to curtail Microsoft's power, and that it was unrealistic to expect that a better deal could be reached for such a large class-action group.

This curtails power? You give away free software and refurbished, USED computers. Knowing the way MS thinks, they will donate Windows 95 and 80Mhz computers. Then when all the schools systems sign their licensing agreement, they will be forced to purchase more than \$1 billion in hardware and software to remain compliant with their agreement. This is a BIG, BIG win for MS and a big loss for competition in America.

Yes, it is wonderful that disadvantaged children can gain access to computers and information that was not available to them. But at the cost of innovation and free competition?

You people were elected by me and my peers. We do not pay to have our way. You are supposed to represent our way, but you sell out to some powerful, egotistical company that will not admit that they do not play fair. This is justice? this is punishment for abusive power? Oh, we'll just sugar coat it with some feely good news that disenfranchised children now have access to computers and Americans, who are too busy with their lives and terrorist crap will suck it all up and smile that justice was done. What you have done to the American people is terrorism against new ideas and a free market that is dictated by good products and the will of the people, not by buying and influencing mindless, greedy politicians.

I am ashamed to be an American, the so called land of the free where people's dreams can come true, as long as Bill Gates says you can...

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